

— THE —
CIVIL WAR
—
A FILM BY KEN BURNS

ACTIVITY #2

**Question Sheet for African-American Troops and Robert Gould Shaw of the 54th
Massachusetts Regiment**

Student Copy

Questions from the video:

1. How did the Emancipation Proclamation change the nature of the war for former slaves and free African-Americans?
2. Describe how battle changed the opinions of white Union soldiers towards African-American soldiers.
3. As you listen to the narration of the assault on Battery Wagner, take note of when you see signs of equality for African-Americans and where signs of prejudice are apparent. Discuss.

Questions from Robert Gould Shaw's letter to his wife, Annie:

1. What is the good news that Colonel Shaw tells his wife, Annie, in his letter?
2. What evidence does he present to illustrate this good news?
3. Compared to the other regiments engaged in battle, what was the casualty count for the 54th Regiment according to Shaw's letter? What point do you think he is attempting to convey?